

Amendments to the Drawings

FIG. 1 is amended herein to include the legend "PRIOR ART".

### Remarks

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1-33 are rejected. Claims 6-8, 10, 14-16, 22-24, 26, and 30-33 are objected to. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-33.

The Abstract was objected to for the term "comprises." The abstract is amended here.

FIG. 1 was objected to as not bearing legend of "Prior Art". The figure is amended herein.

Claims 6-8, 10, 14-16, 22-24, 26, and 30-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability.

Claims 1-5, 9, 11-13, 17-21, 25, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,092,409 (Patten et al.).

Independent claims 1 and 17 require determining an initial flexural stiffness of a component of the flow meter, determining a current flexural stiffness of the component, comparing the initial flexural stiffness to the current flexural stiffness, and detecting a calibration error condition responsive to comparing the initial flexural stiffness to the current flexural stiffness.

Patten does not disclose determining a flexural stiffness of a component of a flow meter. Patten does not disclose detecting a calibration error condition using a flexural stiffness. Patten does not disclose detecting a calibration error condition using a change in a flexural stiffness. Patten does not disclose verifying a flow calibration factor using a flexural stiffness.

In contrast, Patten discloses measuring a period of oscillation (see col. 6, line 62 to col. 7, line 1). Patten requires a fluid flow in the flow meter. Patten further discloses using the oscillation period to determine a density of a fluid flowing through the flow

tube. Patten discloses using changes in measured density of a known fluid (see col. 2, lines 30-39 and 51-53). The density in Patten can be used to infer a change in a flow calibration factor.

Independent claims 1 and 17 therefore include features that are neither taught nor suggested by Patten. Claims 2-5, 9, 11-13, 18-21, 25, and 27-29 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 17.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-33. Please feel free to call to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

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**Enclosure:** Amended FIG. 1